

1839 - 1939

SOUVENIR

OF

100TH ANNIVERSARY

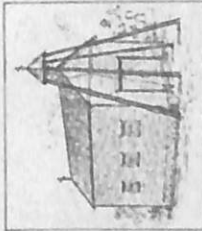
ST. PHILOMENA PARISH

STONELICK, OHIO

History of St. Philomena Parish

STONELICK, CLERMONT COUNTY, OHIO

IN 1835, a penalty for unpaid taxes was imposed upon twenty acres of land adjoining Stonelick Creek. This penalty was an acre of ground which was taken over by the Auditor of Clermont County, Amos Hill, acting as an agent for the Most Reverend John Baptist Purcell, Archbishop of Cincinnati, purchased this acre of land for the sum of the taxes due (49 cents and 8 mills) to be used for a Catholic Church and graveyard. On this site, was erected the first log church, at a cost of \$50.00, and dedicated to Saint Philomena. It was a quaint structure, situated in what is now called the "Old Cemetery," with only half windows, and four great poles for the support of the church roof. This crude belfry stood outside and in front of the Church door. The little Church was started in 1839 and consecrated by The Most Reverend Anthony Blanc, Bishop of New Orleans, October 11, 1840.



FIRST CHURCH—1839

In this log Church, the people worshipped their God until 1868, when it burned down, on the Eve of Ascension Day. In 1869, another Church of stone was built under the direction of Father Louis Navarron, at a cost of \$2500.00, and consecrated by Archbishop Purcell, October 30, 1870. During the pastorate of Rev. Charles F. Schelhamer, who took charge July 4, 1880, the present parsonage was built to take the place of the small frame house in which Father Navarron had lived



Rev. Charles F. Schelhamer
1880 - 1882

for twenty-nine years. This new six-room parish house cost a little more than \$900.00.

Father Schelhamer was succeeded by Rev. Charles Wiederhold who spent nearly three years as pastor of St. Philomena Church. Father Wiederhold died recently at St. Peter and Paul Church, Reading, Ohio. During Father John J. Cunningham's pastorate (1887-1903), the old burial ground, which served as the resting place of Stonelick's pioneers for fifty years, was closed and a new cemetery was formed on the other side of the Church. It was surveyed and laid out, by E. H. Thirey, into a plot of 159 lots consisting of twelve graves. These lots were sold for \$16.00.

In 1903, Father Fred Gallagher was appointed by Archbishop Moeller. Evidently he was advised to build a new Church. In 1905, the thirty-six-year-old stone Church was torn down and the present brick Church was built at the cost of \$5,731.87, which was gathered from the donations of the people and the neighborhood. Inscribed on the Church windows, one may read the names of some of these generous donors. Much of the labor was supplied by the hands of the men of the parish. On the date of the consecration (November 26, 1905), the church debt was entirely paid. Father Gallagher was transferred to St. Matthew Church, Norwood, in November of 1906. Following Father

Now, in consideration of the premises, and at the request of the before named party of the second part, the said W. M. Preble, as County Auditor of said Clermont County, doth hereby grant and convey unto said Most Rev. John B. Purcell, Roman Catholic Bishop of Cincinnati, his heirs and assigns for the exclusive use, behoof and benefit of a Roman Catholic Church and Grave Yard for the Roman Catholic Congregation of St. Philomena, in Stonelick Township, in Clermont County, Ohio, the premises to sold as aforesaid, which are described in said survey as follows, to wit: "Surveyed Sept. 28, 1839, for Amos Hill agreeably to the requisitions of the above Certificate, one Acre of Land, on the waters of Stonelick Creek, in John Dintons Survey, N. 681, in John Dintons Survey, N. 681, in Clermont County, Ohio, the said one Acre being taken off of the Most North Westly Corner of the 201 Acre Tract named in the above

PORTION OF ORIGINAL DEED TO CHURCH PROPERTY